

March 10, 2022

Dear Environment Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, and Transportation Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Lemar, and all the distinguished Members of these committees,

I am writing **in support** of two bills that will significantly improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Connecticut:

- HB 5039: An Act Concerning Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Emissions Standards
- SB 4: An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act

As you know, the transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our state – but meaningful reductions in that sector will therefore do much to clean up Connecticut’s air and address the climate crisis. These two bills aim to bring about those reductions, and I urge you to support them both.

HB 5039 would allow the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to adopt the State of California’s standards for emissions from medium and heavy-duty vehicles, such as trucks and buses. Such vehicles account for about a quarter of the GHG emissions in Connecticut, and putting the vehicles under the California standards, rather than outdated federal ones, would help Connecticut meet its own goals for GHG emissions levels in 2030 – targets that were set by our 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act. In addition, with the California standards in place, Connecticut residents will benefit from lower levels of particulate matter and nitrous oxide, a precursor to ozone, in the air we breathe.

By promoting greater use of electric vehicles, SB 4 will also improve air quality. Among other provisions, SB 4 will increase rebates for purchase of electric cars and bicycles; require school buses throughout the state to be electric by 2035 (and sooner in environmental justice communities); and make it easier for people to install electric charging stations where they live. These incentives and goals, along with the matching grants SB 4 will provide, will encourage more people and communities to use electric transport – with a decrease in GHG emissions.

Pollution from the transportation sector already seriously endangers public health and contributes to the climate crisis. HB 5039 and SB 4 are major steps toward mitigating the effects of climate change and meeting Connecticut’s GHG reduction goals. I ask you and your fellow legislators to support both bills.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Solensky
Stratford, CT